

January 25, 2010

Mr. Anthony Nowinowski, Manager
Owners Group Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: PRESSURIZED WATER
REACTOR OWNERS GROUP BASES FOR LICENSEE DEBRIS GENERATION
ASSUMPTIONS FOR GSI-191

Dear Mr. Nowinowski:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has concerns regarding certain assumptions that some licensees have made regarding the generation of debris following a hypothetical loss-of-coolant accident. The assumptions, as noted in licensee response submittals to Generic Letter 2004-02, result in a significant reduction to the amount of debris assumed to be generated as a result of a coolant pipe break. The assumptions were based on industry technical reports WCAP-16710 and WCAP-16851, which were referenced in the licensee submittals. After reviewing those licensee submittals, the NRC staff asked to audit the technical reports. While auditing the reports, the staff developed a number of questions, which have been put on respective licensees' dockets as requests for additional information (RAIs). The Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG), on behalf of affected licensees, has requested that the NRC staff's questions on these reports be resolved generically through the PWROG to the extent feasible. Therefore, the NRC staff is forwarding these questions to support interactions with the PWROG at its request.

The NRC staff originally discussed 12 draft RAIs with the PWROG regarding the technical reports in March 2009. Those original twelve questions are included as Enclosure 1 to this letter. On November 16, 2009, the NRC staff completed a review of the twelve draft RAIs and consolidated them into seven draft issues which encompass the concerns of the original twelve questions. The original RAI #1 and RAI #8 were focused on shock waves. These were combined as issue 1. The original RAI #2, RAI #9, and RAI #10 were focused on plant jacketing systems. These were combined as issue 2. The original RAI #4 was rewritten as issue 3. The original RAI #3, RAI #5, and RAI #6 were focused on application of the American National Standard Institute/American Nuclear Society 58.2 1988 model. These were combined as issue 4. The original RAI #7 was rewritten as issue 5. The original RAI #11 was rewritten as issue 6. The original RAI #12 was rewritten as issue 7.

The seven issues are included in this letter as Enclosure 2. The NRC staff requests that the PWROG respond to the issues in Enclosure 2 by March 1, 2010, as agreed upon during the public meeting between NRC staff and the PWROG on December 16, 2009. The NRC staff considers acceptable responses to the issues in Enclosure 2 as fully addressing the original 12 draft RAIs in Enclosure 1. Enclosure 1 is included for information only and there is no expectation that the PWROG respond to the questions therein.

A. Nowinowski

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Although the NRC staff only reviewed technical reports WCAP-16710 and WCAP-16851, the NRC staff has reason to believe that most or all of the RAIs in Enclosure 2 apply to other technical reports referenced by licensees in response to Generic Letter 2004-02. The NRC staff recommends that, in conjunction with responding to the enclosed RAIs, the PWROG provide sufficient information to allow the NRC staff to conclude that conclusions with regard to the two reviewed technical reports apply to the other technical reports as well (assuming that is the case). This information could reduce individual licensee burdens in responding to NRC staff questions.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed RAI questions, please contact me at 301-415-1053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 694

Enclosures:

1. Original Draft Request for Additional Information
2. Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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